

2515-15
2065-25
In reply refer to Initials
and No.

RESTRICTED
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Op-16-B-5
H2-10/QS1/EF67
RESTRICTED
Serial No. 182516

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

JUL 21 1942

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps, restricted letter, No. 2515-15, file A0-275-dh, dated May 14, 1942.

From: Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To: Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps.

Subject: Rescue of survivors of a torpedoed Norwegian vessel.

Reference: (a) Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps, restricted letter, same subject, No. 2515-15, file A0-275-dh, of 5/14/42.

Enclosure: (A) Rest. ltr. from CG, Marine Barracks, Parris Island, S.C., 2515/ped, to Comdt., U.S.M.C., of 5/5/42, with attached photograph.

1. Enclosure (A) is returned in accordance with request of reference (a).

H. A. Burch
H. A. BURCH
By direction

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL,
Marine Barracks, Parris Island,
South Carolina.

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5 May 1942.

From: The Commanding General.
To: The Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps.
Subject: Rescue of survivors of a torpedoed Norwegian vessel.
Enclosure: (1) Photograph of survivors.

1. At about 11:20 p.m., May 3, 1942, a telephone message was received on this island that there was a lifeboat adrift out at sea about nine miles off Port Royal Sound Buoy containing eleven survivors from a torpedoed vessel. Action was taken immediately, station tug with a medical officer aboard was sent out to search for the lifeboat, and Major Young went out in a plane to try to locate it. Sometime ago, we installed a radio (voice) on the station tug and in the crash boat enabling them to talk to our planes at all times. The boat was picked up and found to contain thirteen survivors of the S.S. BRIS, a Norwegian freighter of about 3500 tons, owned by the Toric Steamship Company of Oslo, Norway. The plane made a thorough search for other boats but none were found. Later on, the crash boat was sent out containing food and coffee. The tug returned to Parris Island at about 10:45 a.m., May 4, 1942, bearing the thirteen survivors. The mate stated that the captain and two members had been killed; that another boat had put off from the BRIS, but that he did not know what became of it. He stated that the vessel had been torpedoed at about 8:45 p.m. on April 20, 1942, at approximately 34 N 69 W. The mate further stated that their boat turned over once and they lost most of their food except crackers, and that their water had lasted until May 3, 1942. Ambulances from the hospital and a medical party were at the dock to meet the tug. The survivors appeared to be in fairly good shape and were immediately taken to the hospital where they were cared for and housed.

2. This morning, the Norwegian Vice Consul in Savannah, Georgia, Mr. R. Trosdal, came to the Post and is making arrangements to take the men to Savannah. The local chapter of the American Red Cross is attending to getting clothing and shoes for the survivors.

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SUBJECT: Rescue of survivors of a torpedoed
Norwegian vessel.

3. Naval Intelligence Officers from the Savannah, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina, districts, were on the Post to interrogate the survivors.

4. Enclosed is a photograph of the survivors arriving on the station tug.

E. P. Moses
E. P. MOSES.

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